

"Warmest regards to you, your family and staff.

"Out of the 50-plus emails you've received so far from me, here's one you'll genuinely enjoy reading, I suspect.

"Gratitude is the subject of my email to you today. Today, I was approved by Medicare for the \$600-per-year low-income credit with relation to the Medicare prescription drug bill. Thank you, the President, and the Republicans for assisting America's poor and disabled in this way.

"Others merely want your attention. We, however, need your attention. We thank you for your hard work and long hours assisting us."

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that over 21,000 low-income seniors qualify for this \$600 exemption in my district alone. This constituent's correspondence is one example of the seniors who are celebrating nationwide the ability to have this program in effect this week.

SUPPORT THE CRANE-RANGEL BILL

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush came to northeast Ohio to Youngstown last week again to try to defend his economic program and argue that it is working for Ohio.

Ohio, since President Bush took office, has lost one out of six manufacturing jobs and has lost 165,000 manufacturing jobs overall. In fact, during the Bush administration, there have been 200 jobs lost in Ohio every single day of the Bush administration.

The President's answer: more tax cuts for the wealthy, hoping some of it will trickle down to the Ohio community that is not working, and more trade agreements, like NAFTA, that continue to ship jobs overseas.

Mr. Speaker, the answer is not the failed Bush economic policies, but instead, the Crane-Rangel bill, which will give incentives to those Ohio and American companies that do their manufacturing in this country instead of giving big companies incentives to ship jobs overseas.

CELEBRATING THE OAK TREE

(Mr. GOODE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce that the National Register of Big Trees from the conservation group American Forests has formally given the crown of the Nation's largest white oak tree, a quercus alba, to the oak tree in front of Bothwick Hall in Brunswick County, Virginia. The national champion oak is 86 feet high, with a circumference of 26 feet, and a crown spread of 116 feet.

The great white oak belongs to George and Mary Robinson from Brun-

wick County, which I am proud to represent. Beautiful and historic Brunswick County is the birthplace of the world-famous Brunswick stew and is now home to the Nation's largest white oak tree.

I am also proud to support H.R. 1775, legislation sponsored by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), my friend and fellow Virginian, which would designate the oak tree as the national tree of the United States.

The meaningful history of the oak and magnificent trees such as that of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson make the oak the logical choice for the national tree. Long may the great Brunswick County white oak stand.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CONGRESS TO WORK TOGETHER

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, June 1, causes me to reflect on two distinct and different occurrences.

First of all, we notice across the Nation senior citizens confused, not understanding and certainly not enrolling in the so-called prescription drug cards. We welcome our pharmaceuticals to really work with this Congress to produce a guaranteed Medicare prescription drug benefit, what the seniors have actually wanted for almost 10 years, in order for the seniors to truly get what they deserve, something they can count on and something that works.

It also causes me to reflect on the wonderful opportunity I had to visit with the troops in Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan and on the USS George Washington. It says that the political collapse that seems to be occurring in Iraq is not the fault of our soldiers, but bad political policies.

It is important for Congress to work together, to demand full investigations of the ills that are occurring in Afghanistan and Iraq in order to pay tribute to these hard-working soldiers every day on the front line. Let us not have the ills and the incompleteness of our political process undermine the tribute and the work that has been done by these fine outstanding United States military.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SADDAM HUSSEIN AND OSAMA BIN LADEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of concern over the past year or so about whether or not Saddam Hussein was tied in with Osama bin Laden and the terrorist network and al Qaeda.

There is an article in The Weekly Standard this week called "The Connection," and I would urge all of my colleagues to read this article. It shows a picture of Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden, and some other terrorists on the front page of the magazine. The article is written by a gentleman named Stephen Hayes, and it follows an article that was written in the Wall Street Journal last week, and I would like to read some information from the two articles that I think verifies without much doubt that Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations were working together to try to destroy the United States and Western Civilization.

Let me read from the Wall Street Journal of May 27, 2004:

"One striking bit of new evidence is that the name of Ahmed Hikmat Shakir appears on three captured rosters of officers in Saddam Fedayeen, the elite paramilitary group run by Saddam's son Uday and entrusted with doing much of the regime's dirty work. Our government sources, who have seen translations of the documents, say Shakir is listed with the rank of lieutenant colonel. This matters because if Shakir was an officer in the Fedayeen, it would establish a direct link between Iraq and the al Qaeda operatives who planned" the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Shakir was present at the January 2000 al Qaeda 'summit' in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, at which the 9/11 attacks were planned. The U.S. has never been sure whether he was there on behalf of the Iraqi regime or whether he was an Iraqi Islamicist who hooked up with al Qaeda on his own."

The fact is he was an officer in the elite military of Saddam. He worked with his son Uday, and he was there when they planned the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Further, the article goes on to say: "The CIA has confirmed that al Qaeda's number 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, met with Iraqi intelligence in Baghdad